

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 07168 081321Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5561
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 07168

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PGOV, US, GE
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FRG, UK, FRANCE ON US-GDR RELATIONS

REF: A. BERLIN 7077, B. BERLIN 7086, C. BONN 14472

1. I AM PUZZLED BY REQUEST REF C, ESPECIALLY SINCE I HAVE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS AS WELL AS THE FRG PERM REP AS REPORTED REFS A AND B.

2. WHILE I WELCOME EMBASSY BONN'S DESIRE TO BE ACCOMMODATING ON MATTER OF BRIEFINGS ON MY CONVERSATIONS WITH TOP GDR LEADERS, I SEE NO NEED TO HAVE WHAT AMOUNTS TO DOUBLE BRIEFINGS. I WILL CONTINUE TO BRIEF MY THREE WESTERN COLLEAGUES HERE ON MY DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR LEADERS AND ON US-GDR DEVELOPMENTS. THIS APPROACH SEEMS SUFFICIENT AND WOULD PRECLUDE POSSIBLE CONFUSION OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT COULD ARISE AS A RESULT OF GIVING A BRIEFING SEVERAL HANDS REMOVED FROM THE INITIAL SOURCE. I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT DOUBLE BRIEFINGS COULD JEOPARDIZE THE
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 07168 081321Z

RAPPORT I AM BEGINNING TO ESTABLISH WITH MY WESTERN COLLEAGUES HERE IN THAT THEY MAY WONDER WHETHER INFORMATION THEY MAY SHARE WITH ME IN CONFIDENCE IS BEING GIVEN TOO WIDE A DISSEMINATION, LEADING TO POSSIBLE LEAKS AND/OR DISTORTION. FOR THESE REASONS, I BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE FOR ME TO BRIEF MY COLLEAGUES HERE.

3. I RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY FOR OCCASIONAL BRIEFINGS OF
BRITISH AND FRENCH REPS IN THE BONN GROUP ON MAJOR DEVELOP-
MENTS HAVING A BEARING ON U.S. OR ALLIED INTERESTS. I AM
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO MAKING ALL MY CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATIONS
WITH GDR LEADERS THE SUBJECT OF BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS AS
A DEVICE TO EXTRACT INFORMATION FROM THE FRG BONN GROUP REP.
I DOUBT WHETHER SUCH APPROACH IS NECESSARY TO INDUCE THE
BONN GROUP REP TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. EVEN IF IT WERE, I
WOULD STILL BE OPPOSED BECAUSE OF THE ADVERSE EFFECT I
BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE ON MY MISSION AND RELATIONS WITH MY
WESTERN COLLEAGUES HERE. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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